

benefits and adjustment allowances. Individuals who would not be expected to return to their jobs, but who may find some alternative job within the various sectors of the aviation industry, would also be eligible for training.

**Health Care:** COBRA coverage, which continues health insurance for displaced workers, is prohibitively expensive and beyond the ability of many workers to pay. My bill requires the Secretary of Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor, to establish a program under which 75% of the premium for COBRA continuation coverage shall be provided for a displaced aviation employee. Payment of such premium assistance may be made through appropriate direct payment arrangements with a group health plan or health insurance issuer. Individuals who do not qualify for COBRA and are otherwise uninsured might be able to benefit from a state option to provide temporary Medicaid coverage. Furthermore, a state could provide temporary coverage under Medicaid for the unsubsidized portion of COBRA continuation premiums.

**Hiring Preferences for Laid Off Workers:** Thousands of federal security screener jobs remain unfilled at the Transportation Security Administration. Title III of my bill establishes a preference for displaced airline workers for TSA airport security screening jobs. Additionally, the Under Secretary of Transportation Security is directed to develop a program of performance incentive awards to Federal Security Managers, to encourage the hiring of eligible airline employees for TSA positions.

Mr. Speaker, my bill is designed to furnish assistance to aviation industry workers who have suffered severe economic damage from the terrorist attacks of September 11, and those who may suffer as a result of a war with Iraq. This assistance can tide them over the initial period of economic distress, and help them find new jobs, just as we found it appropriate to recognize the plight of our airlines as economic victims of a terrorist attack on our entire nation, we should also recognize the plight of that industry's employees.

I urge my colleagues to join me in working to pass this important and equitable legislation.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE LONG ISLAND CITY YMCA

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 16, 2002*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to the The Long Island City YMCA on the occasion of their Third Annual Frank J. Tempone Service to Youth Dinner Dance. For their unwavering commitment and many charitable endeavors, Assemblyman Brian McLaughlin, Al Samilenko,, and Joseph Previte will be honored this evening.

The LIC YMCA opened its first full-service facility on March 1, 1999. This multi-service family center, the first in the area, represents a major commitment to the families, residents, businesses, and employees of Western Queens.

Since his election to the Legislature in 1992, Assemblyman McLaughlin has been an outstanding representative for Queens, focusing on criminal justice reform, renovating aging in-

frastructure to promote economic development and job growth, consumer protection, housing, and programs and services for older adults. An effective legislator, Assemblyman McLaughlin has authored more than a dozen state laws, including measures toughening crime laws and improving health care in the community. For his unyielding commitment to community service, numerous organizations have honored Assemblyman McLaughlin, including the East Flushing Civic Association, the Flushing Council on Culture and the Arts, and the Flushing Hospital Medical Center. Assemblyman McLaughlin has also been a community activist in Queens and a leading figure in New York City's labor movement for more than two decades. He currently serves as the President of the New York City Central Labor Council, which represents more than 1.5 million working men and women.

In 1958, while attending Rutgers University, Albert J. Samilenko started his own company, Garden State Electric. He subsequently was employed in managerial positions in prominent electrical construction firms, where he honed his project management skills and engineering abilities. In 1993, Mr. Samilenko purchased Fred Geller Electrical, expanding the firm so that it is engaged in all aspects of electrical construction and engineering. In addition, Mr. Samilenko currently serves as President of the Association of Electrical Contractors of New York City, an organization that represents 140 companies in the New York Metropolitan Area. Always committed to the advancement of youth, Mr. Samilenko has been actively involved in a wide range of organizations, including Friends of Saint Dominic's, The Boy Scouts of America, and Covenant House.

Joseph Previte has been a member of the Queens County Bar Association for 30 years, a member of the Columbian Lawyers Association for 12 years, and a past Vice Chairman and member of the Long Island City YMCA for 22 years. Mr. Previte has devoted his free time to public service, working as the Director of the Queens Library Foundation, participating in the Queens District Attorney's Business Advisory Council, and serving on the Judiciary Advisory Council Unified Court System of New York State. In addition, he was Commissioner and President of the New York City Board of Elections for 11 years, a past member of the Board of Directors of the Queens Botanical Gardens, and a past Vice President of the Queens Museum of Art. Mr. Previte is presently counsel to the law firm of Pennisi, Daniels and Norelli, LLC, and Former Senior Partner of the law firm of Previte, Farber, and Rosen, P.C.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the selfless efforts of Assemblyman McLaughlin, Al Samilenko, and Joseph Previte, and Long Island City YMCA's outstanding contributions to the community, and wishing them a wonderful evening at this Third Annual Frank J. Tempone Service to Youth Dinner Dance.

#### SUNBEAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 16, 2002*

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the Sunbeam Elementary School

in Cleveland, Ohio for affording me the opportunity to visit with young students during my Third Annual Back-to-School Tour on Monday, September 23rd and Monday, September 30th of 2002. I would like to offer special thanks to Cleveland School Municipal District CEO Barbara Byrd-Bennett, Superintendent Deborah Ward and Principal Hollis Munoz for their leadership and kind hospitality. The tour was an educational experience for all who were in attendance.

Sunbeam Elementary School has set forth major academic goals for the year, which include creating a safe, nurturing environment for students; improving academic and/or functional living skills of all students; and implementing a middle school program within a K-8 structure. Recent accomplishments from last year include relocating the media center to a larger space; offering onsite social services; and 60 percent of sixth graders passing the reading portion of the Ohio Proficiency exam.

I commend the Sunbeam Elementary School for its commitment to education and will continue to fight for increased funding to improve the quality of public education for all students.

#### THE INCLUSIVE HOME DESIGN ACT

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 16, 2002*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that today I introduced the Inclusive Home Design Act. This legislation will greatly increase the number of homes that are accessible to people with disabilities. The legislation requires all newly-built single family homes receiving federal funds to meet three specific accessibility standards: an accessible route, or "zero step," into the home, 32" clearance doorways on the main level, and one wheel chair accessible bathroom.

It defies logic to build new homes that block people out when it's so easy and cheap to build new homes that let people in. Many states and localities have already incorporated visitability standards. This list includes Naperville, Bollingbrook, and Champagne, Illinois, Atlanta, Vermont, Texas, Kansas, Arizona and others. Also the United Kingdom passed a law in March 1998 mandating that every new home become accessible. A federal law will build on the momentum that has already been created.

The proposed legislation is based on the concept of Visitability, an affordable, sustainable and inclusive design approach for integrating basic accessibility features into all newly built homes and housing. While serving as a member of the Illinois State House I introduced similar legislation.

When homes are accessible, it benefits not only today's disability community, but also all of us who are friends and family members of people with disabilities. Often, the prohibitive cost of making an existing home accessible deprives seniors of their independence and pushes them into nursing homes. It can cost several thousand dollars for someone to retrofit their home. However, on average it only costs \$300 to add visitability features into a new home.

By making new homes accessible, we guarantee that many seniors can age at home. As